

(Interruptions)

SHRIE. AHAMED (Manjer): I have given the notice before ten o'clock, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ahamed, if you have given your name before ten O'clock, then certainly your name will be there. If every hon. Member takes only one minute, I think more Members can participate. If some Members speak for three to five minutes, then Members like Devendra Prasad and others are denied the opportunity to speak and they ventilate their grievances outside the Chamber, in the lobby.....

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If your name is there, certainly you will be called.....

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not speaking but I want to make a suggestion to you. I want to say one thing to help you. I am not speaking in the Zero Hour but when unlisted business are discussed in the Zero Hour, you should also give a chance to unlisted members to speak on the unlisted business.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a very good suggestion. Thank you. Mr. Sobhanadreeswara Rao, you know the time limit. You should accommodate more friends to participate.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity. Through you, I draw the attention of this Government to a very serious anomaly that is taking a place in

respect of the fare that is being charged on Satvahana Express, very recently introduced between Vijayawada and Secunderabad and on Pinakini Express, introduced between Vijayawada and Madras City, as inter-city trains. It is a wonder that though the Railways have not attached the First Class bogie, they are charging first-class fare from the passengers for travelling in the A.C. Chair Car compartments. For example, the A.C. Chair car fare between Vijayawada and Secunderabad is Rs. 150, whereas for first class it is Rs. 249. The Railways are charging Rs. 249 from the passengers travelling in A.C. Chair Car, instead of charging Rs. 150. So, I urge upon the Government, through you, to immediately take notice of this anomaly and remove this anomaly and charge only the A.C. Chair Car fare that is normally charged on Express Trains. I also urge upon this Government.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly excuse me, Mr. Sobhanadreeswara Rao. There are so many hon. Members who could not get a chance to speak for the past eight days, though they come to the office at ten o'clock. Senior Members like you should accommodate others.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: I am on the last sentence, Sir. By this time it would have been over also.

Sir, I also urge upon the Government that very recently, train derailment has taken place in respect of Godavari Express. Several derailments and accidents are taking place between Vijayawada to Ongole and Vijayawada to Visakhapatnam. So, through you, I urge upon the Railway Ministry to take all necessary steps to maintain the track in a fitting manner so that this type of derailments do not take place. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation].

SHRIDIGVIJAYA SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to an incident. Yesterday, the Delhi police maltreated Shri Bhagwat Dayal Sharma very badly. He is a very senior freedom fighter, ex-Chief Minister and Ex-Governor. His son was physically assaulted, his wrist watch, chain were snatched and he was robbed of his cash money.

Shri Bhagwat Dayal Sharma, is a very senior freedom fighter. The country is going to celebrate the fiftieth year of the 'Quit India Movement' after three days. On such an occasion we not only condemn the maltreatment of the Delhi police against Shri Bhagwat Dayal Sharma, but also demand the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to take stern action against those police personnel who are acting totally in an irresponsible manner. A case should be registered against the Delhi Police Officers and staff for snatching away the wrist watch and the chain. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to make a statement on this incident and take stern action against the guilty Police Officers and staff.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very optimistic that some Minister will certainly take notice of the question raised by Shri Digvijaya Singh. Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma had been a Governor, a Chief Minister, a freedom fighter. But he and his son were maltreated and he informed me of all this over telephone. I think it very unfortunate if such incidents take place, particularly in Delhi. If action is not taken promptly and these incidents are not checked, then people will think that police can act arbitrarily and there is no check on them. Therefore, I want to remind the Government and the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs again to apprise the hon. Minister of Home Affairs of this incident and take suitable action in this connection.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (SHRIGHULAM NABIAZAD): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if what the leader of the opposition has submitted is rue, then it is very bad. I would apprise the hon. Minister of Home Affairs of this incident and give him all the information.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a big agitation is being launched in Rajasthan for seeking constitutional recognition for Rajasthani language. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Sir, hon. Minister must come out with a statement on this. It is a very serious issue. (*Interruptions*) This is a very serious matter where a very senior politician and senior social worker of this country has been manhandled by the Delhi Police. He is being rebuked and abused in the Police Station. This cannot be tolerated. This is a very serious matter. The hon. Minister must come out with a statement on this.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, something must be said. Do you not agree that something must be said by the Government? (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, they want you to make a statement. Are you prepared to make a statement?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRIGHULAM NABIAZAD: Sir, I have said that I will bring this to the notice of the Home Ministry and take appropriate action. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Lodhaji to continue. You must be an ideal speaker.

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therefore, I would hope that the committee will not only function impartially but the Government will also provide the necessary facts of the committee and will not put any hurdles in the working of the committee so that the committee may be able to find out the truth.

The corruption prevailing in the country particularly at the highest level and among the people who are holding high positions generally go unpunished for their crimes. Such things will not happen and for liberating the country from corruption and such scam this committee will really reach to a historical decision.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, on behalf of C.P.I. I welcome this motion and I think that the atmosphere in which the decision has been taken to constitute the Joint Parliamentary Committee and the way in which consent of all the parties has been obtained is a historical event therefore it will have a good result. The people of the entire country have a lot of expectations from this committee and I hope that the Government will act according to the assurances given by it or by the hon. Prime Minister. The manner in which this joint parliamentary has been constituted makes me hopeful that it will work properly and successfully and will achieve its goal and will be helpful in eradicating the corruption and will suggest effective steps to check such scams in future.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV (Machilipatnam): Respected Deputy Speaker, one thing is clear before the nation. There may be one committee or 100 committees, if they fail to bring back the money, if they fail to bring the culprits to book, there would not be any law and order, there would not be an

constitutional functioning of then Government in this country.

The issue before the nation in the coming elections, the issue is not Ayodhya or atrocities on Harijans and Girijans; that is not the issue before the country now.

Supposing the real facts are not brought out by this committee tomorrow, there will not be any rule in this country. The rich people will never be able to stay in this country safely.

In spite of so much of military, in spite of so much of police force in Punjab and Kashmir, we are not able to control the situation because of the immoral administration; the immoral government can never control the situation in Punjab or in Kashmir or elsewhere. Therefore, this Committee has got more responsibility than any other committee earlier worked in this democratic system. Therefore, I request through you, Sir, the Government to co-operate and the opposition parties also to work sincerely, keeping their interests separately and bring out the truth.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have thought it fit to have this opportunity to register our protest over the formation of this Committee, ignoring the Telugu Desam Party.

We ourselves, pleaded for constitutional appointment of the Committee. But in this, today I have found that our Telugu Desam Party has been ignored and the opportunity is given to the break-away group. Even some political parties which have got a lone Member in this House, are provided place in this committee, for reasons bet known to the Government. So, we strongly protest over the composition of this Committee and I hope the Government will reconsider and provide opportunity to the Telugu Desam

[Sh. Sobhandreeswararao Vadde]

Party to associate itself with the functioning of this committee.

I also urge upon the Government to accept the Opposition's suggestion that one of the Leaders of opposition, who are members of this Committee, should be the Chairman of this committee.

We had the earlier experience of the Joint Parliamentary Committee appointed to examine the Bofors Issue. Even at that point of time, we had suggested that just like a Public Accounts Committee, the Government should accept that the chairmanship should go to the Opposition, because irrespective of the party strength, it is the Government which has been responsible for certain things which have happened. It is also the responsibility of the Opposition to find out, to pin-point the lapses, the deficiencies, the wrongs that are being done by the Government. So in the fitness of things, just as the Chairmanship of the Public Accounts Committee is offered to the opposition, I strongly urge upon the Govt. to accept the suggestion that one of the Leaders of Opposition, who is a member of this Committee should be the Chairman of this Committee.

As the Government has ignored the genuine stand of our party, in protest we are walking out.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): I will reply to your query. If you are not satisfied then you can go, because I have the answer for it.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: What is the point of making people who belong to the break-away group, members.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, I

welcome the formation of this JPC . It is the responsibility of this Committee, which represents the august House, not only to find out or fix the responsibility of the greatest scam but also which is very important to make recommendations regarding policies and regulations to be followed in the near future.

I emphasise upon the policies. As a matter of fact, this is not the occasion to bring in all those points, but policy decisions are also responsible for this kind of a scam, for which I think the entire country and the world is watching us.

I have got also certain reservations regarding the composition of the Committee. It represents the House, all the political parties whatever might be their number, who are represented in the House, should have been accommodated. Anyway, I have no intention to walk out. Rather, I want to walk in. Therefore, this Committee should have been all comprehensive, comprising all sections of the House, whatever might be the strength of the party.

Lastly, I hope that the Government will fully co-operate with this Committee and I also want to warn the Government, that if there is any remark by any member of the committee that the Government have not fully co-operated with it, that will be of grave consequences for the Government. I would, therefore, request the Government, in their own interest, to come forward to volunteer their information so that the Government may bring itself out of the dock.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : I will come to this point later on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I must thank the Leader of the Opposition and the leaders of the various political parties and groups for

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a JPC to go into the irregularities etc. *to securities shres, Bonds, etc.*

their full cooperation in formulating the terms of reference for this Joint Parliamentary Committee. I fully agree with the Leader of the Opposition and the leaders of the various political parties that the Government is also equally keen to know the facts about the individual, or individuals, involved in addition to other banks or whosoever is involved. But at the same time, I expect that the Committee will also find a permanent solution so that this type of a scam never happens again.

As far as the Government is concerned, I assure this honourable House that we will provide all the facilities to the Committee and the Government will render the fullest cooperation to the Members of this committee. So, there should not be any doubt, as far as cooperation from the Government's side is concerned. I have full faith in the Members of the Committee—once they are members, they are members, whether they are from this side or that side—they are all knowledgeable members. I hope they will find a permanent solution and come to a conclusion with the full cooperation of the Government.

Some points have been raised by honourable Member, Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde. I would like to be very clear that as far as the ruling party is concerned, I have not taken even one seat more than what my party deserved.

As far as the Leftists are concerned, the CPI themselves suggested that my party should take one extra member from here and I should leave one seat for them in the Rajya Sabha. That is an internal arrangement which some of them may not be knowing here. At the request of their leaders I have done that. Shri Somnath Chatterjee knows it.

As far as the smaller groups are concerned, might be Telugu Desam, DMK, TDP split, Janata Dal split, JMM split, I kept two seats for them also. So, JMM split, JD split

and TDP split have given me one name, therefore, I have given the membership to them. About one name, I have already mentioned, Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde was not here. I discussed it with the leader of their party, Shri Padmanabham yesterday. I had two rounds of meetings, with him, yesterday and day before yesterday. If they were ready yesterday, I would have announced it yesterday itself. I could not do it because they were not ready. I had kept one seat for them and DMK to sort out among themselves. Although by the strength-wise they could not have got it, just as I gave one seat to other three groups, I kept one seat in Rajya Sabha for them also. And that option is still open for them. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Does the split groups, which you have mentioned, constitute the required strength.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV: We are as big as your party.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: I have already said that they were supported by other two groups. I have already said that two three groups got together and they had given one name.

Let it be clear that although your Group also does not have the required number, if the TDP lead by Shri Rao and DMK sort out the matter between themselves, then I am going to give one seat in Rajya Sabha. I am in consultation with the leaders of both the parties for the last two days and I had left one seat for them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is :

"That a Joint committee of both the Houses consisting of 30 Members, 20 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha be appointed:

Bank	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
Indian Bank	855	1215	1609
Indian Overseas Bank	425	456	411

(b) In accordance with the statutes governing the public sector banks, and also in term of the practice and usage prevalent among the bankers, the matter relating to individual constituents of a bank are not disclosed.

Compulsory Service in Army

4876. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined a proposal to make it compulsory for every citizen of the country to serve in Army for a period of three to five years as is practiced in U.S.A. and some other countries;

(b) if so, the possible benefits to the country due to this decision; and

(c) the date by which this proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c). Recruitment into the Armed Forces in India is open to all citizens. As the response to enrolment is over-whelming, on need has been felt to enforce compulsory military service in India.

Spice Trading Corporation Ltd.

4877. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHARS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Spices Trading Corporation Limited extends assistance to spice growers particularly in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and also earns foreign exchange;

(b) If so, whether the Government propose to close down this Corporation;

(c) if so, the reason thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to revitalise the Spices Trading Corporation Limited?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMANKHURSHEED): (a) The objectives of the Spices Trading Corporation Ltd. *inter alia*, include:-

- (i) to carry on domestic and international trade in spices and its products; and
- (ii) to support, project, maintain, increase and promote the production of its products as also sale and exports.

(b) No such decision has been taken by the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The performance of the Spices Trading Corporation Limited is reviewed by the Government from time to time and such

(c) the extent of reduction made during the last three years; and

(d) the names of the programmes for which the said assistance has been reduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the existing instructions, where there is a shortfall in expenditure on Minimum Needs Programme outlays, a proportionate cut in Central assistance is made.

(c) On account of shortfall in expenditure on Minimum Needs Programmes against their approved outlays of the State's Annual Plans, the amounts of Central assistance to Uttar Pradesh reduced during the last three years are as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount (Rs, In lakhs)</i>
1989-90	29.39
1990-91	127.54
1991-92	43.43

(d) The reduction in Central assistance to Uttar Pradesh in 1989-90 was on account of shortfall in departmental expenditure on Minimum Needs Programme for adult education, and medical and public health against their approved outlays for 1988-89; the reduction in 1990-91 was on account of shortfall in departmental expenditure on Minimum Needs Programme for civil supplies and nutrition against their approved outlay for 1989-90, and the reduction in 1991-92 was on account of shortfall in departmental expenditure on MNP scheme for adult education against its approved outlay for 199-91.

Exemption Limit for Goods Produced by Small Scale Industries

4907. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the limit for exemption for the goods produced by the small scale industries;

(b) the time since when this present exemption of excise limit of small scale industries is in force;

(c) whether the Government propose to enhance those limits in view of the continuous devaluation of rupee for the last several years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Notification No. 175/86 -CE dated 1.3.86 as amended from time to time provides the following exemptions to specific commodities stipulated therein:-

(i) full exemption for the first clearances upto a value of Rs. 20 lakhs per year when the goods manufactured fall under one chapter of the Central excise Tariff and upto a value of Rs. 30 lakhs per year when the goods manufactured fall under more than one chapter of the said Tariff; and

(ii) In respect of clearness beyond Rs. 20/30 lakhs and upto Rs. 75 lakhs per year, the duty is 10 percentage points less than the normal effective rate subject to a minimum duty of 5% ad valorem.

The exemption is available only to the manufacturer whose total value of clearances in a year is more than Rs. 2 crores. One of the conditions for availing of the concession is that the factory should be registered as a small scale industry with certain exemptions. Besides the aforementioned general exemption, there are certain specific exemption schemes for commodities such as cosmetics, air conditioning and

(b) The limits of Rs. 20 lakhs for goods of one chapter has been in force from 1.4.90. The limit of Rs. 2 crores is in force since 27.4.89. The limits of Rs. 30 lakhs of goods of more than one chapter is in force from 1.4.89. The limit of Rs. 75 lakhs is in force since 2.4.86.

(c) to (e). There is no proposal under consideration at present to enhance the aforementioned exemption limits as it is considered to be adequate to serve the interest of genuine small scale sector.

Damage to Cardamom Cultivation due to Drought In Kerala

4908. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drought in Kerala during this year has seriously damaged cardamom cultivation in the State;

(b) if so, the estimated value of loss suffered;

(c) whether this is likely to affect the production and export during next year; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated value of the crop loss is Rs. 30.25 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Under the existing scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture for financing relief expenditure, an amount of Rs. 31.00 crores

has been allocated to State Government of Kerala with central contribution of Rs. 23.25 crores to be released in 4 equal quarterly instalments. State Governments are required to meet expenditure on Relief measures in the wake of natural calamities out of the funds available under the Calamity relief Fund (CRF). A State level Committee headed by Chief Secretary of the State is fully empowered to decide on all matters relating to relief operations including norms of assistance. Central Government intervenes only in the case of calamity of such dimension and severity which needs handling at the National level and then provides additional Central assistance.

However, in order to augment the resources of the State Government towards relief measures, third instalment of the Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 5.81 crores has been released in advance to the Government of Kerala in addition to the two quarterly shares of Rs. 11.62 crores already released.

Assistance to Sick Units

4909. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick industrial units getting assistance from the National Banks; and

(b) the steps being taken to promote these sick units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as on 30.9.90 (the latest date for which such information is available) 69539 sick or weak industrial units were extended financial assistance by the nationalised banks.

(b) RBI have issued detailed guidelines

(c) the present stage of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Telecast of 'Today in Parliament' in Regional Languages

5045. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to broadcast 'Sansad Samachar' "Today in Parliament" news in regional languages from the respective Doordarshan Kendras in the various States;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRJA VYAS):

(a) No, Sir.

(b). Does not arise.

(c). On account of constraints on telecast time, resources and manpower.

Investment in Kolar Goldfields

5046. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

the total investment made by the Government in the Kolar Goldfields and its running annual expenditure on mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGHYADAV): As on 31.3.1992 the Central Government had made a total investment of Rs. 9919 lakhs in its public sector company Bharat Gold Mines Limited which is engaged in mining of gold in Kolar and some other areas. The investment comprises of equity of Rs. 4606 lakhs, Plan loan of Rs. 4618 lakhs and Non-Plan Loan of Rs. 695 lakhs.

The Yearwise total expenditure of this mining Company during the last 5 years is as under:-

<i>(Rs. in cores)</i>	
<u>Year</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
1987-88	49.38
1988-89	55.84
1989-90	76.63
1990-91	79.04
1991-92 (Provisional)	91.66

Theft of Telephone Cables

5047. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6323 on April 6, 92 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the cases of theft of telephone cables have since been decreased; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Overall progress upto June '92 is 12. 25%.

(b) Rs. 17.64 crores upto June '92.

(c) Yes, Sir. Constraint of resources.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Science Museum at Vijayawada

5232. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESORUCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations for setting up of a Science Musum/Centre At Vijayawada, in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been approved; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE)(KUMARI SELJA):(a) The

national Council of Science Museum Calcutta an autonomous Organisation under the Department of Culture, had received a proposal for setting up of a Science Centre in Vijayawada from Andhra Pradesh Council of Science, and Technology, an Andha Pradesh government Institution.

(b) The proposal has been approved by the governing Body of National; Council of Science Museums.

(c) Normally within a period of 18 months the Centre can be set up.

Railway Projects in Maharashtra

5233. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) details of railway projects taken up during the Seventh Five Year Plan in Maharashtra but not completed so far;

(b) the stage at which these projects stands at present, project-wise details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to expedite the completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Following Railway Projects were taken up during Seventh Five Year in Maharashtra, but have not completed so far:

<i>Name of Project & Length</i>	<i>Year of Approval</i>	<i>Cost (in crs. of Rs.)</i>	<i>Pro-gress</i>	<i>Target</i>
Doubling of Metpanjra-Bharatwada (38.38 km)	1989-90	40.90	75%	30.6.93

[Kumar Selja]

14.39 hrs.

Sarnath, Varanasi, for the year
1990-91

(ii) A Copy of the Annual Accounts
(Hindi and English) versions of the
Central Institute of Higher Tibetan
Studies, Saranath, Varanasi for the
year 1990-91 together with an
Audit Report thereon

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and
English versions) by the
Government on the working of the
Central Institute of Higher Tibetan
Studies, Saranath, Varanasi for
the year 1990-91

(6) A statement (Hindi and English
versions) showing reasons for delay
in laying the papers mentioned at
(5) above

[Placed in Library See No LT-2489/
92]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi
and English versions) of the
University Grants Commission,
New Delhi, for the year 1990-91,
under section 18 of the University
Grants Commission Act, 1956

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and
English versions) by the
Government on the working of the
University Grants Commission,
New Delhi, for the year 1990-91

(3) A statement (Hindi and English
versions) showing reasons for delay
in laying the papers mentioned at
(7) above

[Placed in Library See No LT -
2490 /92]

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE
DISAPPROVAL OF FOREIGN
EXCHANGE CONSERVATION (TRAVEL)
TAX ABOLITION ORDINANCE
AND
FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONSERVATION
(TRAVEL) TAX ABOLITION BILL) 1992 -
CONTD

[English]

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER Shri
Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO
VADDE (Vijayawada) Mr Deputy-Speaker,
Sir, I beg to move

' That this House disapproves of
the Foreign Exchange
Conservation (Travel) Tax Abolition
Ordinance, 1992 (Ordinance No, 8
of 1992) promulgated by the
President on the 29th May, 1992 "

Sir, I feel that this measure of abolition
of foreign ' exchange conservation relating
to the travel tax is premature. The reason
as to why this travel tax was imposed in 1992
was to discourage the foreign travel and
at least to some extent conserve the precious
foreign exchange. Now, abolition of this tax
will negate the objectives with which this
was introduced. Now, the balance of
payment's position has improved to some
extent definitely from the situation which
was there some time back, but still it can be
taken as a temporary phenomenon and still
we are not out of the woods. We have to
make all our efforts to increase our foreign
exchange reserves. Even the targets for
exports were not realised. There is some
gap in the targets and the actual
achievements. This year, unfortunately, the
nature is not kind enough in different States
and a drought situation is there in different
parts of the country. I fear that we have to
import food grains and some other
agricultural products including edible oils.
Because of the good results of the technology

mission on oil seeds, in recent times out import bill has come down. But, still we may have to spend some money. So in these circumstances, I feel that abolition of this Foreign Exchange Conservation (Travel) Tax Bill is not taken at a right time.

Now, the Government is going ahead with the liberalisation programme. It has announced several policy measures in the economic, industrial and trade fronts. But, when we examine the experience of some other countries where this liberalisation process has already been attempted, one particular phenomenon that is observed is that their balance of payments position also has further worsened. There were some gains in some sectors. But at the same time, it is also a fact that their balance of payments position has further accentuated. We have to keep that also in mind.

As the hon. Members are well aware, from 1985 onwards because of certain policy measures that have been taken by the then Government and the subsequent Governments, our foreign exchange reserves have gone down to the lowest ebb. The value of the rupee also has gone down. In 1980-81 while the rupee per US dollar was Rs 7.89, by 1985-86 it has gone down to Rs 12. From 1986-87 to 1991-92, it came down to Rs 25/-, that means more than 100 per cent. So, I hope, the Government will keep all these factors in mind. The growth rate in foreign exchange earnings from export of goods and services by public sector undertakings was lower in 1991. It was 11.5 per cent as compared to 30 per cent and 17.1 per cent respectively in the two preceding years. Now, the foreign exchange reserve are nearly 6 billion. It can only give some consolation that it is better than earlier. But still a small country like Taiwan is now having eighteen billion dollars in foreign exchange reserves surpassing Japan and USA. Even our neighbour China is having a huge volume of foreign exchange reserves. The Government has some time back liberalised the Foreign Exchange Rules and may fear is that with this relaxation the authorised foreign exchange dealers can sell foreign exchange to the members of

various delegations of trade organisations, etc. going abroad. So there should be some restraint on this. The rule relating to the ceiling on release of foreign exchange for import of capital goods was also withdrawn by the necessary Bank of India on 17th March, 1992. All these measures which have been taken by the Government may lead to depletion of our foreign exchange reserves.

I urge upon the movement to take all possible steps to further increase our export earnings. No stone should be left unturned in that endeavour. The Government may contemplate abolishing this Foreign Exchange Conservation (Travel) Tax only at the point of time when we have reached the stage where we need not bother any more about the balance of payments and where we have enough of foreign exchange reserves with us.

With these words, I oppose the Ordinance that was promulgated as Ordinance No. 8 of 1992. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) Sir, this is regarding abolition of Foreign Exchange Conservation (Travel) Tax Bill, 1992. The tax at the rate of fifteen per cent was introduced to the Finance Act, 1987 with a view to conserve foreign exchange and discourage foreign travel. This came into force with effect from 15th October, 1987. The tax was applicable to foreign exchange releases for all types of travel, except travel in connection with medical treatment, higher education and pilgrimage.

Government have been receiving representations from time to time for the abolition/exemption from the said levy in respect of foreign exchange releases for travel abroad under various schemes like Returning Indians Foreign Exchange Entitlement Scheme, Foreign Travel Scheme, as also foreign visits for export promotion etc. With the introduction of the Liberalised Exchange Rate Management System, the foreign exchange for travel abroad is now

the Government would consider my request

With these words, I support the Jammu & Kashmir Budget

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada) Mr Chairman Sir, while supporting the proposal for extension of the President's Rule for a further period of six months with effect from 3 September 1992, I would like to say a few words

19.03 hrs.

[SHRI PETER G MARBANIANG *in the Chair*]

Sir, I do not agree with the statements made by the hon Prime Minister and the hon Home Minister that the situation in Jammu & Kashmir has improved considerably. The very fact that the militants could attack the Assembly Building and the Secretariat in capital city Srinagar by launching rockers itself is a clear indication of the extent to which the militants have gained ground and strength in spite of the presence of our military. Sir, the situation is still very grave. I suggest that the Government should continue the efforts to curtail the activities of the militants, if necessary, by further strengthening the para military forces in the valley and by providing much more sophisticated arms to them to fight the militants who are receiving arms and ammunition most probably, from Pakistan and also from other sources. These militants are already in possession of very sophisticated arms.

I also appeal that this is not the right time for conducting elections in that State. Elections should be conducted only when the situation is quite conducive for holding elections in a fair manner. Meanwhile what all efforts could be made to create such an atmosphere must be made. The Government should give an impression to the people in the Valley that they will not tinker with Article 370. It will protect Article 370 and that it will take all possible steps to inculcate confidence in them. Over a period of time because of some omissions and commissions of either

the State Governments which were in power in Kashmir or of the Central Government, a good number of Kashmiri people have come to feel that the Government of India is not strictly implementing Article 370. Article 370 keeps their identity intact, which they cherish more than anything else.

In this context I may be pardoned by my BJP friends for appealing to them to desist from the view which they profess for doing away with Article 370. I came across a good number of youths in my area, who without knowing the historical background which necessitated the incorporation of Article 370 say that Kashmir is the part and parcel of our country and for this why do you need Article 370. They are quite unaware of the situation. When one partition took place, the veteran Kashmiri leader, Shere-e Kashmir, Sheikh Abdullah and the then ruler Shri Hari Singh agreed to accede Kashmir to India. A written agreement was signed in this regard. Many youths do not know this and they think that it is right to do away with Article 370. A good number of Kashmiri people, leave alone the militants who are inspired by Pakistan for it want to split the country and take some political advantage out of the disturbed condition in Kashmir, feel that Article 370 is not sincerely implemented.

So, under these circumstances abolition of Article 370 will not be in the interest of the nation and in the interest of the unity and integrity of this country. The Kashmiri people should remain with our country. I request the BJP friends to give up their demand for the abolition of Article 370.

Shri Ayub Khan was referring to the release of some militants by Shri Mufti Mohammad Sayed when his daughter was captured by some militants. I would like to ask my hon friend which party has encouraged such types of elements in our country. Is it not a fact that the Congress party has given tickets to some persons who hijacked the plane? Is it not a fact that it was your party which had encouraged Mr Bhinderawalle to weaken our Akali party?

So, what I want to say is that instead of

[Sh. Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde]

criticising the various political parties let us put our heads and hearts together, do some heart searching and speak the truth. Let us desist from such criticisms and try to do something good for the country's future. Forgetting the mistakes which we had committed earlier, simply for our own narrow partisan ends, we should give the first priority to the cause of national interest.

I hope, the Government will do away with such type of wrong deeds and create positive circumstances in Jammu and Kashmir in future to hold elections and to see that the militancy is put an end to.

[Translation]

SHRI PIUS T IRKEY (Alipurduars): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there has been a proposal to extend the President's rule in Kashmir. This is not good. But the situation has taken such a turn that every countrymen and all the parties have to accept this decision. This is simply because the Government has not been able to generate a congenial atmosphere for holding elections.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, all the three parts of Kashmir have their own different problems. There is one occupied Kashmir about which it has not so far been ascertained whether it will be a part of India or it will go to Pakistan. The countrymen do not know even this much. I would therefore like to submit that if this occupied Kashmir has not been annexed to Pakistan what then the Government is doing to take it back. The next issue relates to Jammu. There is not much problem in Jammu. It is a bit peaceful. The third part of Kashmir is Laddakh. The situation in Laddakh is different. The people living there have their own culture. In this way taking Laddakh, Jammu and Kashmir together all these three parts have their own different problems.

The whole area of Jammu, Kashmir and Laddakh is not disturbed. It is the duty of the Government to provide help in the areas that are disturbed and where there are problems in carrying out development work. Something

should be done in this regard. What is required is to have control over Jammu and Kashmir then to play politics. It is the politics being played there that is responsible for worsening the situation.

Reportedly the border is to be sealed there. But the Government has not been able to do so far. It is good that we should maintain a good relation with the neighbouring countries; but the way Pakistan is inflicting troubles to our country and is sending militants and is running training camps for them is causing concern. Keeping these facts in mind what are the steps being taken by the Government to prevent such activities of the Government of Pakistan. People should also be informed as to by what time the borders will be sealed. Then comes the problem of Laddakh. The people there have their own customs, language and culture. They are tribals. What are the steps taken by the Government to protect their culture, language etc. There is a danger of losing the whole of Kashmir just for the cause of Jammu and Kashmir issue. Care should be taken to prevent the spreading of one and the same trouble in all the areas of Jammu, Kashmir and Laddakh.

I would, therefore, like to say that special attention should be paid by the Government in the sensitive areas. Special training should be imported to the employees and then they should be sent in those areas to prevent the chances communal riots and to spread an atmosphere of fellow feeling. The problem will not be solved there unless that atmosphere is generated and unless Pakistan is beaten by its very weapon. It is the responsibility of the Government to dispel soon the kind of atmosphere taking shape in India. If the Government likes, the members of Parliament can extended help, they can be consulted. Frequent extension of its period will not serve any purpose. There should be a limit to it.

I would like to submit to the hon., Home Minister that the period should now be extended for the last time and such an atmosphere should be created in the six months that electronics may be held there to

form a popular Government

[English]

SHRI E AHAMED (Manjeri) Mr Chairman, without fear of contradiction, I submit before the House that Kashmir is not merely a law and order problem which can be solved by wielding a big stick or with some bullet against the trigger happy militants, the problem is more of a political nature and also one of the alienated psyches of the Kashmir people

My hon colleagues have been mentioning about election There was also a proposal to conduct election in Kashmir May I submit here before going in for an election the Government should take all steps to create a congenial political atmosphere in Kashmir In this connection, I may mention what the hon Prime Minister has observed in an interview with the Hindustan Times It reads as follows

If some people think that within the Indian Constitution an amount of autonomy which meets with the aspirations is possible, then that is what we have to explore"

The Prime Minister has mentioned that he has to discuss with the militants or those who have the aspirations of a certain amount of autonomy for the people of Kashmir is prepared for it This is the crux of the matter Therefore, the first thing, according to me, is that the Government of India should convince the people of Kashmir the bonafides of the Government of India is to provide a certain amount of autonomy

The Government should also convince the fact that they will protect there Kashmirate of Kashmir society by the effective implementation of Article 370 and bring back the misguided youths who have been misled by the trigger happy militants, who have been the supporters, of Pakisfan Government Pakistan is really doing a great harm to their own country, according to me, because the people of Kashmir wanted to identify with the rest of the country We shall

not stand in their way and we should also give them correct signal that the people of the rest of the country will always stand by them In this connection, I would like to urge upon the hon Home Minister to make an enquiry about the reported conflict between the security forces and the civilian people there Here I am mentioning about it only for the Home Minister to make necessary investigation That one woman in a locality near Srinagar/who delivered a baby a couple of weeks ago has been arrested by the security persons There was a scuffle between the local women and the security forces and as a result of which 20 women have been injured Later this young woman was released on humanitarian grounds It was reported that she has been described as a Pakistan trained terrorist, but she has denied it The local people told the press people that it was her husband who was a militant Even a woman has been arrested by the police talking every other Kashmir as a militant This is a matter to be deplored

Another matter which I would like to bring to the attention of the hon Minister is that one of the Members has referred about the corruption in some offices It is said that some of the officers have misappropriated rifles, machine guns and a lot of gold which they gotered while making raids on Ikhwanul Muslim hideouts Of course the Government have taken prompt action by placing these people under suspension So these are the problems which we have to look into

At the same time, I urge upon the Government to take care of those migrants who have been forced to go out of the territory I would also urge upon the Government that the people should be given a convincing message that the Government of India is sincere to respect their feelings, their aspirations, their honour, their wishes and the psyche of the Kashmiris

At the same time, I also urge upon the Government to constitute a Parliamentary Committee to go to Kashmir and enquire into the grievances or any excesses if any that have been committed on the people of Kashmir The Kashmiri people will always